

brought together as soldiers, neighbors and devoted friends, they are examples of the great patriotic and democratic spirit that is the foundation of our society. They are fitting examples of why it is important to learn and remember our complete American History.●

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 317, S. Res. 181, reported today by the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 181) expressing the sense of the Senate that on March 2nd, every child in America should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and further, that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 181) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 181

Whereas reading is a basic skill for a quality education, a requirement for a successful life's work, and a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas reading ability is essential to our nation's ability to remain competitive in a global economy;

Whereas the American Library Association, the National Family Literacy Council, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Reading Is Fundamental, the International Reading Association, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and others have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2nd as a national day to celebrate reading; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) March 2nd, 1998 shall be known as "Read Across America Day" to focus on the basic component of learning; and

(2) every child should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss's birthday; and

(3) the success of Dr. Seuss and many others like him in encouraging children to discover the joy of books is applauded; and

(4) all parents are encouraged to read with their children for at least one half hour on March 2nd in honor of Dr. Seuss to help us realize the goal of having the best readers in the world.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Ma-

jority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, his appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the National Council on the Arts: The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS).

DESIGNATING 1998 AS THE "ONATE CUARTOCENTENARIO," THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST PERMANENT SPANISH SETTLEMENT IN NEW MEXICO

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 306, S. Res. 148.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 148) designating 1998 as the "Onate Cuartocentenario," the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment, as follows:

Whereas Don Juan de Oñate of Spain settled the first permanent colony of Europeans in the Southwest Region of the United States, known as San Gabriel de Los Españoles, and located near modern day San Juan Pueblo and Española, New Mexico;

Whereas the first Spanish capital was established at San Juan de los Caballeros in July of 1598, predating the English settlement of Jamestown in 1610 by 12 years;

Whereas Spanish exploration activity in the New World began in 1512 when Ponce de León explored the Florida peninsula, and included the explorations of Francisco Coronado throughout California to Kansas and across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma from 1540 to 1542;

Whereas the major Spanish settlement efforts were focused in modern day Florida and New Mexico, and 1998 marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent settlement in New Mexico, referred to as the Cuartocentenario;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing minority group in the United States and include descendants of the Spanish, Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Central American, and other Hispanic peoples;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau estimated in March 1993 that the Hispanic population of the United States was 22,800,000; the current estimate of the Hispanic population in the United States is 26,000,000, with projections of 30,000,000 by the year 2000, 40,000,000 by 2010, and almost 60,000,000 (or 20 percent of the total United States population) by the year 2030;

Whereas the number of Hispanic immigrants to the United States has increased from 1,500,000 in the 1960's, to 2,400,000 in the 1970's, to 4,500,000 in the 1980's, and the number of Hispanic immigrants is expected to continue to rise;

Whereas two-thirds of all Hispanics in the United States today are of Mexican origin, and 70 percent of United States Hispanics live in 4 States: California, Texas, New York, and Florida;

Whereas New Mexico's Hispanic population is 39 percent (or over 660,000 of the 1995 total

State population of 1,700,000) and represents the highest percentage of Hispanics in any State in the United States;

Whereas the United States has an enriched legacy of Hispanic influence in politics, government, business, and culture due to the early settlements and continuous influx of Hispanics into the United States;

Whereas the New Mexico State Government has funded a Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with assistance from the Federal Government, local governments, and private contributions, to celebrate and preserve Hispanic culture including literature, performing arts, visual arts, music, culinary arts, and language arts;

Whereas the Archbishop of Santa Fe, Michael Sheehan, is planning events throughout 1998 in New Mexico, including the opening of "Jubilee year", an encuentro at Santo Domingo Pueblo to mark the meeting of the missionaries with the Pueblo peoples, an Archdiocesan reconciliation service at the Santuario de Chimayo, and an Archdiocesan celebration of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe;

Whereas in order to commemorate Don Juan de Oñate's arrival, the city of Española will have a fiesta in July 1998, the city of Santa Fe is planning several special events, and the New Mexico statewide committee is planning a parade, a historical costume ball, and a pageant in Albuquerque; and

Whereas many other religious, educational, and social events are being planned around New Mexico to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico;

(2) recognizes the cultural and economic importance of the Spanish settlements throughout the Southwest Region of the United States;

(3) expresses its support for the work of the Española Plaza Foundation, the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Cuartocentenario committees, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center Board of Directors, the Hispanic Cultural Foundation Board of Trustees, as well as other interested groups that are preparing New Mexico Cuartocentenario activities;

(4) expresses its support for the events to be held in New Mexico and the Southwest in observance of the New Mexico Cuartocentenario;

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) declaring 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico; and

(B) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor and celebrate the contributions of Hispanic people to the cultural and economic life of the United States; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to support, promote, and participate in the many New Mexico Cuartocentenario activities being planned to commemorate the historic event of the early settling of the Southwest Region of the United States by the Spanish.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this year New Mexico is commemorating

the 400th anniversary of its first Spanish Settlement. In 1598, the first Spanish expedition arrived from Santa Barbara, Mexico, and settled near San Juan Pueblo in the Española valley.

The Spanish settlement of New Mexico in 1598 predates the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620, by 22 years. It also predates the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 by 9 years.

New Mexicans are exploring their roots with a renewed interest. The Pueblo Indians of New Mexico helped the Spanish to survive and flourish. The Spanish brought new crops, mining, weaving, cattle and other livestock, Christianity, and Spanish government.

Although the history of two cultures meeting in New Mexico has had its difficult times, such as the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, New Mexico is today known for its harmonious intercultural life, including much intermarriage.

Mr. President, I am proud to have 60 cosponsors of this resolution. Senator LOTT, the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator DASCHLE, the Senate Minority Leader, are both original cosponsors of this resolution.

This year we commemorate the brave and adventurous Spanish families who first set roots in the beautiful Land of Enchantment. By commemorating these early events, we are also honoring the important cultural, political, and economic contributions those Spanish families and their descendants have made to enrich our state and nation.

The Oñate expedition was part of a large Spanish effort to expand the Spanish Empire, convert more people to Christianity, and find great wealth in the New World. There was great excitement at the beginning of the 16th Century about these prospects.

Spaniards like Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro (cousins from Medellín and Ciudad Trujillo) left Spain in the early 1500's to seek their fortunes and spread the glory of Spain.

When Mayan gold was taken back to Spain from the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico in 1517 by Hernandez de Córdoba, it fueled the fires of the Spanish enthusiasm for finding the legendary Seven Cities of Gold in the New World.

Spanish explorers like Poncé de León, Francisco Coronado, and Don Juan de Oñate explored modern-day America from Florida to California.

Some 400 Spanish settlers were led by Don Juan de Oñate from Santa Barbara, Mexico, through El Paso to San Juan Pueblo (named by Oñate for John the Baptist). The soldiers, priests, laymen, families, servants and their 83 wagons and 7,000 animals formed a 2 to 4 mile-long caravan as they journeyed up the Rio Grande.

When they arrived at San Juan Pueblo on July 11, 1598, they established the first Spanish capital in the New World. They built the San Gabriel chapel and convento. Today, a beautiful replica of the San Gabriel chapel stands in the Española Plaza.

It is well known that the Spanish people founded the oldest cities in America. First, St. Augustine, Florida was founded in 1565, followed by Santa Fe, New Mexico, the second oldest city in what is now the United States. In 1610, Santa Fe was named the capital of New Mexico making it the oldest capital city in America today.

Before Santa Fe became the capital of the New Mexico territory, the San Gabriel mission served as the first Spanish Capital of New Mexico, beginning in 1598. San Gabriel is at San Juan Pueblo where the Rio Chama meets the Rio Grande. Its Indian name was Yunge Oweenge.

The designation and renaming of this site by its first Governor, Don Juan de Oñate, as San Gabriel del Yunge Oweenge marks the first permanent Spanish settlement in the west.

1998 marks the 400th Anniversary of the founding of San Gabriel del Yunge Oweenge in the Española Valley of present-day New Mexico.

This resolution highlights the importance of the Spanish explorations in America and pays tribute to the growing population of Hispanics who are anticipated to be twenty percent of our national population by the year 2030, with a projected population of 60 million Hispanics. Two-thirds of the 26 million Hispanics in America (who make up eleven percent of our population today) are of Mexican origin, and 70 percent of Hispanics live in 4 states: California, Texas, New York, and Florida.

New Mexico has the highest percentage of Hispanics at 39 percent or about 660,000 residents out of a total 1995 state population of 1.7 million. Albuquerque, New Mexico, will be the site of a new Hispanic Cultural Center to celebrate and preserve Hispanic culture including literature, performing arts, visual arts, music, culinary arts, and language arts.

New Mexico will be the center of many exciting events throughout the year to commemorate this important historic milestone. New Mexicans are looking forward to fiestas, balls, parades, and other stimulating events to mark this historic occasion.

The Archbishop of Santa Fe will be opening a Jubilee year in January. Among other events, he will hold an encuentro at Santo Domingo Pueblo to mark the meeting of the missionaries with the Pueblo Peoples.

The City of Española will have a fiesta in July to commemorate the actual arrival of the Spanish into the area. Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Taos, Socorro, Aztec, Albuquerque, and other New Mexico towns and cities will be holding such special events as fiestas, historic reenactments, a State Fair Pageant, an historic Spanish costume ball, and parades. Seminars and lectures will abound.

State Fair pageant plans include a reenactment of De Vargas' reentry into New Mexico, a review of the Pueblo Revolt and its ramifications, life under

the American flag during the middle to late 1800's, and a patriotic tribute to all Hispanics who have fought for the United States. This reentry spectacular will be performed twice before large New Mexico State Fair audiences. It will also be televised.

This resolution also asks the President to issue a proclamation declaring 1998 is a year to commemorate the arrival of Hispanics and celebrate their growth in importance in our nation's culture and economy.

This Senate Resolution calls upon the people of the United States to support, promote, and participate in the many New Mexico Cuarto-centenario activities being planned to commemorate the historic event of the first Spanish settlement in the Southwest Region of the United States.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their overwhelming support of Senate Resolution 148. This resolution designates 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be agreed to, the resolution be agreed to, the amendment to the title be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 148), as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read:

A resolution designating 1998 as the 'New Mexico Cuartocentenario', the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 506 and 507, and the nominations of Randall Dean Anderson and Robert Miller which were reported by the Judiciary Committee today, and I ask further unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to consider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's